

Message Text

PAGE 01 TANANA 01234 151019Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 057845

O 150923Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7433

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1234

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF NASA STATION

REF: A. STATE 165673; B. STATE 164819; C. STATE 162893

1. DOES NASA WISH TO HOLD UP DEPARTURE OF NASA/BENDIX
DEPENDENTS IN LIGHT OF REFTEL A? EMBASSY/NASA HAVE ARRANGED
NO BLOCKED SEATS BEFORE JULY 19, BUT SOME BENDIX DEPENDENTS
HAVE MADE
OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLIER DEPARTURE.
MANY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN SELLING OFF PERSONAL
POSSESSIONS AND
CARS. MANY WILL LEAVE IN ANY CASE. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. BOTH CHARGE AND NASA DIRECTOR ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE
STATEMENT IN NOTE TRANSMITTED AS REFTEL B THAT "USG HAS
PERMANENTLY CEASED ALL OPERATIONS AT NASA TRACKING STATION."

3. FROM CHARGE: ALTHOUGH I HAVE BELIEVED THAT NASA WOULD
NOT TOLERATE ANY FURTHER INTERRUPTION OF STATION OPERATION

AND WOULD CLOSE DOWN PERMANENTLY, I NEVER SAID SO UNTIL I
RECEIVED REFTEL B WHICH WAS DEVOID OF ANY COMMENT THAT
INDICATED THAT "PERMANENT" MEANT ONE THING FOR GOMR AND
SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME. NASA PRESS RELEASE ON JULY 11 GAVE
MALAGASY AND OTHER FOREIGNERS HERE IMPRESSION THAT NASA HAD
ALREADY DECIDED TO CLOSE STATION. I DENIED AT THAT TIME
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THAT FINAL

DECISION ALREADY TAKEN IN WASHINGTON SINCE I NEVER
CLEARED OR RECEIVED PRESS RELEASE UNTIL MY TELEPHONE CALL
TO AF/E ON JULY 12 WHICH WAS PREEMPTED BY MY CONSTEENATION

ON ITS RELEASEE. PRESS RELEASE MAY BEE REASON BEHIND DECISION
TO "PROVISIONALLY" CLOSE STATION RA"HER THAN SIMPLY PLACE
TROOPS AROUND IT AS MOFA ORIGINALLY INDICATED. IT'S DIFFICULT
TO BE AN EFFECTIVE QUARTEEBACK IF THE COACH DOESNT GIVE YOU THE
GAME PLAN. I WILL OF COURSE, DO ALL I CAN WITH INSTRUCTIONS
IN REFTTEL A. ELFERS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Concepts: CLOSURE OF OFFICES, TRACKING STATIONS
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